

NH Advisory Committee on Fire Protection

Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006

Meeting commenced at 9am with the following members present: Lawrence Thibodeau, Len Daniels, Chris Burns, Rob Musil, Butch Burbank, Steve Mango, Rob Farley and John Mooney

Also present: Steve Rancourt President ECBA, Dan Sullivan BK Systems and Chris Piccolo GH Laflamme

Lawrence Thibodeau called the meeting to order and reviewed the minutes from the September 13 meeting. Steve Mango brought to the floor 2 discrepancies in need of change:

- 1) On page 3 of the September Minutes, “ASSA” should be replaced with “AFFA”
- 2) On page 5, the last entry by Steve Mango should have “certification for alarms” should be deleted and have “continuing education” inserted in its place.

Chris Burns moved to accept the amended minutes and Steve Mango accepted. The vote was unanimous to accept the amended minutes which will be sent out to all committee members with the October Minutes.

New Business:

Lawrence Thibodeau asked Chris Burns and Steve Mango if they had an opportunity to meet to iron out their differences.

Chris Burns: Yes, it was a good meeting and he then passed out a draft of Proposal Saf-c 1200 with changes and insertions.

Lawrence Thibodeau: “Should we delete 1201.02(b) (5)?”

Steve Rancourt was recognized: “Can we leave it in until all criteria are agreed upon?”

Rob Farley: “Typographically, it should have been deleted a while back.”

Lawrence Thibodeau to Chris Burns and ECBA: On their draft proposal in section 1202.13, the electricians are separated out the rest of the fire protection industries so this section should be reworded.

Section 1203.01(c) was reviewed without comment.

It was agreed that in section 1203.01 5, sub-sections a. and b. should be a. **OR** b.

On section 1203.01 (f), Chris Burns said that because of the compressed time schedule, the ECBA did not have time to insert the insurance requirements but that they will be added in the near future.

NH Advisory Committee on Fire Protection Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006

After discussion on 1204.01 (a) (1), it was agreed to leave the wording in its original form and delete "...and have a high school diploma or GED equivalent."

After discussion, it was agreed to leave 1204.02 (6) (B) in its original form.

In regards to training, John Mooney asked Chris Burns if the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) offers certification courses.

Chris Burns: "Yes" he had researched and found that NFPA offers courses on NFPA-72.

There was then discussion on 1204.03(d) and the deletion of "copy of pay stubs".

Lawrence Thibodeau: "Since this section deals with 'either/or' it should not be a big deal."

It was agreed to leave the 'pay stub' section in the draft.

On section 1204.03(d)(2), it was agreed to delete "6 months experience" and replace it with "required".

On section 1205.01(e) it was agreed to keep this new insertion.

On section 1207.01 (c) this was discussed without resolution.

On the proposed new section 1209.01, there was discussion about offering 'provisional certification' and a time or grace period for those with a provisional certificate.

Robert Farley reminded the committee that we do not have statutory authority over Local Authorities having Jurisdiction and that even if we adapt these rules, the local authorities do not have to accept them. He has faced similar issues with other committees and he will try to bring language to this committee to help. His thoughts are if an individual can show proof of experience, he can be offered a "one shot deal" with a provisional certificate.

At this point, the committee returned to the beginning of the draft proposal and began discussions in depth:

Section 1202.02 Definitions:

Robert Farley said he will go into the code books for research and better define some of the definitions.

Section 1204.02 7(a) (1):

Steve Mango: This should be more definitive as to what the requirement may be so that a high end fire alarm contractor can work on wiring as stated in 1202.02. He also wanted to know what "144 hours of classroom training" will be.

NH Advisory Committee on Fire Protection Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006

Robert Farley: Just what is “Class 2 or 3 wiring”?

Chris Burns: Just making certain that only electricians can work on 120 volt wiring.

Robert Farley: Can it be phrased differently. He understands the intent but the sentence structure needs to be changed. He suggested the following for 1202.02:

“ ‘Fire Alarm and Detection system’ means those assemblies of *low voltage wiring such as class 2 or 3 wiring systems as defined by NFPA-70*, electronic transmitting devices, control panels and related equipment for the detection of products of combustion or flammable gasses and for alerting occupants including fire department personnel in a fire emergency.”

Lawrence Thibodeau recognized Steve Rancourt: Regarding 1204.02 7(a) (1), the ECBA would be happy to assist and refine this section as long as only electricians can work on 120 volts as written in RSA-319-C.

Robert Farley on the wording in 1204.02 7(a) (1): We cannot use “*current NEC*” but rather the “*current adoption of NEC...*” He also added that Mark Hilbert of the Bureau of Electrical Safety said the Electricians Board has no criteria to review training curriculum so the phrase “...by a NH certified provider (NCP).” Will have to be looked at.

Chris Burns: He took what was approved by the state for starting purposes.

Lawrence Thibodeau to Robert Farley: “So you are suggesting that 1202.02 7(a) (1) needs to be rewritten?”

Robert Farley: Yes and we need to get definitive about “NCP”.

Butch Burbank: In section 1202.02 7(a) (1), why 144 hours of classroom training?

Chris Burns: It has precedent and represents one year of study.

Lawrence Thibodeau: It seems like a lot of hours and a long period to wait.

Chris Burns: It’s a baseline to start with.

Steve Rancourt: Article 760.54 installation conditions and ratings are dealt with in detail. He could get a curriculum to follow so another program will not have to be developed.

NH Advisory Committee on Fire Protection Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006

Steve Mango: He doesn't disagree that it is important but for class 2 or 3 systems, 144 hours is too much. Since the 144 hours is part of an apprentice program for electricians, he would rather see classes that focus on class 2 and 3. He is confident that a course can be developed focusing on conduit fill rates, device placement and devicing. He said he is willing to sit with the ECBA to help develop a program.

Steve Rancourt: maybe they could review 760 and take from it what is needed.

Chris Burns: said this was just a starting point and now experts can be questioned on how to put together courses and the amount of hours needed.

Robert Farley: So if you come to an agreement and fashion an abbreviated curriculum for 760, will anyone else now not have the opportunity to provide a curriculum?

Chris Burns: If they have the approval of the Electricians Board, yes they can.

Len Daniels: Will this final draft, when it goes to JLCAR, meet the statute of the law?

Robert Farley: Yes

Len Daniels: Reminded the Committee that certification needs to be provided by a national organization as outlined in SB355 153:5-a.

Chris Burns: Referenced 1208.01 "The state fire marshal may adopt procedures for certifying continuing education programs and may certify continuing education programs, including national reciprocal programs conducted by recognized industry professional groups."

Lawrence Thibodeau: The Committee put in 1208.01 but the law was passed by the Senate JLCAR will have to help us to determine if what we provide will fly.

The conversation then turned to 1202.13 and the insertion "...or the master electrician of record as defined by RSA 319:C."

Steve Mango: Including the master electrician negates the intent of having the Responsible Managing Employee (RME) being a certified individual.

Chris Burns: The intent wasn't to circumvent so maybe it can be reworded.

Robert Farley: If the phrase wasn't there, couldn't the master electrician qualify as an RME? What was the intent of this insertion because 1202.13 is only a 'definition and not a requirement.'

NH Advisory Committee on Fire Protection

Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006

Lawrence Thibodeau then put forth a motion to strike the insertion in 1202.13.

Voted: To strike from 1202.13 the phrase “...or the master Electrician of record for each company as defined by RSA 319:C”

Motion **passed** by a margin of 6 – 1 (Chris Burns voting against)

1203.01 5. was discussed next:

Steve Mango: Spoke at length at how this insertion creates a loophole for master electricians as they would now have the same privileges as an individual who had to study and test to become certified. He did however, like the ECBA idea that since electricians take a 4 year program they would not need to show ‘verifiable training’ and that they should have a provisional certificate to carry them over.

Steve Mango then spoke about 1204.02 (7) (A) and (B) which he felt needs to be defined. He also felt that discussions involving the ECBA and the NH Alarm Association would be beneficial towards crafting a solution.

Robert Farley: Reminded the committee to stay on task. He said the rules are not etched in stone and can be changed. He advised not to write rules with anticipation that towns will automatically adopt what we present.

Lawrence Thibodeau then called for a vote on 1202.02.

Voted: On 1202.02 the section will read “Fire alarm and detection system’ means those assemblies of low voltage wiring such as class 2 or 3 wiring systems as defined by NFPA-70, electronic transmitting devices, detection devices, control panels, and related equipment for the detection of products of combustion or flammable gasses and for alerting occupants including fire department personnel in a fire emergency.”

Motion **passed** unanimously.

Discussion turned to Responsible Managing Employee Qualifications in 1203.01(C):

Len Daniels: Felt that with the insertion “...unless that person is the owner of more than one firm that is engaged in the same industry.” could lead to large companies buying out firms. He felt that each location should have its own RME.

Lawrence Thibodeau: Disagrees and felt that one RME would be enough since all decisions are made at the corporate level.

NH Advisory Committee on Fire Protection

October 12, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Rob Farley: Was under the impression that the intent was to have each branch certified but now, 1203.01(c) negates 1203.01(b) which calls for each branch to have an RME. Does each business location need an RME?

Lawrence Thibodeau: His business has multiple locations but design work is done centrally. In other words, his management is under one umbrella.

Lawrence Thibodeau then called for a vote to strike from the proposal 1203.01(c):

Voted to strike 1203.01(c) from the proposal 5 – 2 (Steve Mango & Len Daniels voting against)

Steve Mango: Would like to see 1203.01 5 (a) be stricken and have requirements negotiated by the ECBA and NHAA.

Chris Burns: In regards to insurance, they are considering \$250000 combined single limits for bodily injury and property damage and \$500000 aggregate for all occurrences per policy year.

Steve Mango: Was under the impression that the alarm people and electricians agreed on \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000.

Chris Burns: "We will work it out."

Robert Farley: Felt that 1203.01 2) (h) needs to be reworked to include all disciplines and offered the following for consideration: "Each firm must employ at least one *fire protection* certified Responsible Managing Employee on a full time basis. A firm may not undertake installation or service of *fire protection equipment* beyond the scope of the certifications of the firms' Responsible Managing Employee. An individual may be a Responsible Managing Employee for only one firm at any given time unless that person is the owner of more than one firm engaged in the same industry."

Voted to accept above rewording of 1203.01 2) (h).

Motion **passed** unanimously.

At this juncture there was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Chris Burns and seconded by Steve Mango.

Next Meeting Weds, 8 at 9am

Respectfully submitted,

John Mooney

Secretary

